

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 432

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor the City of Portland, Tennessee on its centennial celebration.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to join with the cities and counties that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Portland are most assuredly deserving of special recognition, as they will soon commemorate their City's centennial; and

WHEREAS, located on the Highland Rim in Sumner County in extreme northern Middle Tennessee, Portland lies in a region long known for its excellent agricultural soils, a superb wildlife environment and a hospitable climate; and

WHEREAS, just south of what is now Portland, original settlers to the area established the oldest local community, Fountain Head, which sprung up in 1792; founded by the James Gwin family, Fountain Head boasted a grist mill, tobacco factory, post office, Louisville & Nashville railroad depot and a number of retail stores by 1892; and

WHEREAS, originally called Richland, the City of Portland began to blossom in 1846 after the establishment of a school near Shun Pike (Jackson Road) by William Nolan; and

WHEREAS, a pivotal moment in the history of the young community occurred in 1859 when the Louisville & Nashville Railroad established the Nashville to Bowling Green, Kentucky route through Portland, which required the presence of a train depot in the town; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Buntin was named the train depot's first agent and the first Postmaster of the town, then still known as Richland, which served the rapidly growing populace, including the Moore, McGlothlin and Payne families and the proprietor of the new local store, Mr. James Goostree; and

WHEREAS, education has long been a priority in Portland as 1874 saw the establishment of the seminary in Richland, the forerunner of Sumner County High School that would later open in 1915 as the first public high school in Sumner County; and

WHEREAS, in 1887 there were two Richland communities in Tennessee, and at the request of the L&N Railroad and with the cooperation of postal authorities, Sumner County's Richland would become Portland to alleviate fears of train mishaps, lost mail and freight delivery problems; and

WHEREAS, officially chartered by the Tennessee General Assembly in April, 1904, and incorporated in 1905, Portland became a major producer of strawberries in the 1920s. The exportation of strawberries saw the rise of companies to process and transport the fruit, as well as the establishment of several crate businesses; and

WHEREAS, since 1941 the City of Portland has hosted an annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival to celebrate and remember the importance of the strawberry industry to its heritage; and

WHEREAS, today Portland is an industrial leader with employment figures that exceed its population and a progressive community that boasts an excellent Parks and Recreation system, a superb library, a local newspaper and radio station, an exemplary hospital, and a complete airport; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Portland enjoy a large number of active civic organizations, a full-service Chamber of Commerce, a wide variety of churches, and professional police and fire departments; and

WHEREAS, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 the City of Portland will celebrate and mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its incorporation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is one of the great municipalities in Tennessee and it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this fine municipality and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the citizens of the City of Portland upon the celebration of their centennial and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth and prosperity in their outstanding community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.